GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4867
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
B.T. COTTON SEED
RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cultivation of B.T. cotton pollutes the environment and also causes several diseases to human beings as well as animals;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have recommended cultivation of the said crop in the country; and

(d) if so, the name of States where this crop has been sown and the area of land under cultivation of this crop in each State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y.NAIK)

(a)&(b): The data generated under the control of Ministry of Science and Technology on bio-safety and environmental safety on Bt. Cotton in a duration of three years does not indicate that cultivation of Bt. Cotton pollutes environment. Toxicity and allergenicity studies conducted on Bt. Cotton indicated that it is safe to animals. The Bt. Gene had been introduced into the Indian cotton germplasm and there is no report available that it causes diseases to human beings.

(c)&(d): The Government of India so far has not permitted the commercial cultivation of Bt. Cotton in the country.